



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 6, 2006

For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

JUVENILE SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS IN PRISON FOR THREATENING BORDER PATROL AGENT

TUCSON, Ariz. – A juvenile male of the Tohono O’Odham Nation was sentenced here earlier this week to 24 months in prison by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. The juvenile pleaded guilty on August 19, 2005 to a juvenile delinquency charge of assault on a federal officer after an investigation by the FBI in Tucson, Ariz.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton stated that “Border Patrol agents and other federal officers assume a degree of risk in their jobs every day to keep our communities safe. However, these types of intentional threats not only put the agent at risk but are also a threat to innocent bystanders.”

On June 26, 2005, a U.S. Border Patrol agent was on patrol in the village of Cowlic on the Tohono O’Odham Nation when he heard people shouting from about 300 yards away. The agent responded to the area where the people were shouting. As he approached in his vehicle and got out, a juvenile male confronted the agent by shouting obscenities and indicated that he hated Border Patrol. The juvenile claimed he was a member of a gang called “RFG” and that he was a cop killer. He told the agent that he intended to kill the agent and then called out “187” meaning that he had the intention of killing someone. (“187” refers to the California Penal Code number for homicide.)

At one point, the juvenile stated that he also had a “piece” and pulled out a 5-inch folding knife and waved it at the agent. As he waved the knife, he continued the threats against the agent who was approximately 20 feet away. The juvenile advanced toward the agent but his companions were able to restrain him from advancing any further. All of them ran away when the agent called for backup. The juvenile was found in the area and was arrested.

Sentencing occurred on January 3, 2006. The juvenile has been in federal custody throughout the judicial proceedings. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-1286-TUC-JMR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-001

###